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PHOTOGRAPHIC INTELLIGENCE REPORT



EXPLOSIVES/MUNITIONS PLANTS  
HSIAN, CHINA

IMAGERY  
ANALYSIS  
DIVISION

CIA/PIR 65065

DATE DEC. 1965

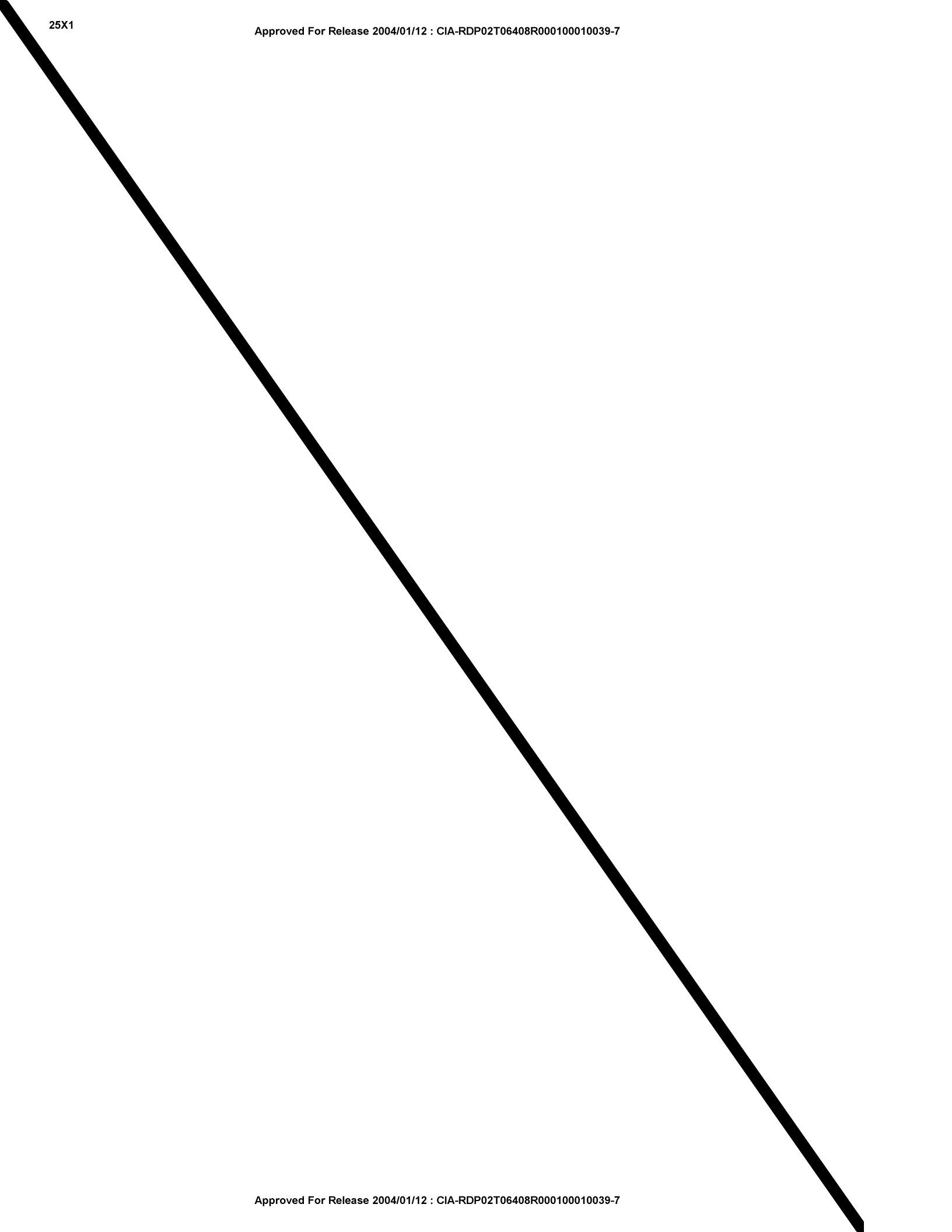
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Declass Review by NIMA/DOD



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| TITLE |  | NPIC      |           | SEC. CLASS. |  | LOCATION |      |
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EXPLOSIVES/MUNITIONS PLANTS  
HSIAN, CHINA

An explosives plant, two munitions plants, and a probable munitions research and development center are located near the city of Hsian (Sian), China. The names and approximate geographic coordinates of these installations are as follows:

|                                                             |                  |
|-------------------------------------------------------------|------------------|
| Hu-Hsien Explosives Plant                                   | 34 02N - 108 37E |
| Hsian Munitions Plant No. 1                                 | 34 18N - 109 08E |
| Hsian Munitions Plant No. 2                                 | 34 14N - 109 02E |
| Hsian Probable Munitions Research<br>and Development Center | 34 12N - 108 55E |

In addition, a large, revetted explosives storage area, known as Hsian Ammunition Storage North, is located at geographic coordinates 34 24N - 109 00E. Although this area is not directly associated with any of the preceding installations and appears unused, it has been included in this report. Figure 2 shows the geographic relationship of all of these installations.

HU-HSIEN EXPLOSIVES PLANT (Figures 3-9)

This plant, sometimes referred to as Hsian Plant Number 845 or Hsian Industrial Chemical Plant, is located approximately 5 nautical miles south of Hu-Hsien and 22 nautical miles southwest of Hsian. It covers an area of approximately 34,000,000 square feet and is road and rail served. There are four major areas at this plant: a heat and power plant, an explosives production area, a test area, and an explosives storage area. In addition, a canal system has been constructed to supply water to this plant.

Explosives Production Area - This area is rail served, secured, and has facilities which strongly suggest that nitrocellulose is being produced. A discussion of these facilities follows; the numbers below correspond to the numbers on Figure 6.

- (1) Administration area.
- (2) Shop area with 12 major shop buildings and numerous small buildings; 3 rail spurs serve this area.
- (3) Open materiel storage.
- (4) Possible cellulose preparation area, rail served; these buildings are interconnected by pipelines and appeared to be capable of production in [REDACTED]

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- (5) Possible cellulose preparation area, rail served; the layout of facilities is identical to the preceeding; however, there were no pipelines connecting the buildings and this section did not appear to be in use as late as [redacted]
- (6) Possible drying and storage buildings for prepared cellulose. Five rail cars were observed in [redacted] on the rail spurs serving these buildings. In addition, piles of materiel (possibly purified cellulose) appeared in front of the two westernmost buildings at that time.
- (7) Probable acid tankcar unloading facility, including two semi-buried tanks.
- (8) Probable nitration facility consisting of (from north to south) nitric acid absorber building, nitric acid concentration building, and a nitration building.
- (9) Probable acid reclamation plant.
- (10) Probable boiling house with two settling pits.
- (11) Probable pulping building.
- (12) Probable poaching and blending building.
- (13) Probable final wringer house.

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Note: There is a great degree of similarity in building configuration and layout between these facilities for nitrocellulose manufacture, Annotations 8-13, and those at Tai-Yuan Explosives Plant South (CIA/PIR 65067).

- (14) Probable lag storage buildings.

Note: Annotations 8 and 10-14 are interconnected by a conveyor/covered walkway system.

- (15) Three pumphouse/solvent storage facilities; pipelines from these serve the probable dehydration/mixing buildings described in (16).
- (16) Three probable dehydration/mixing buildings; the center building is served by a number of pipelines and appeared complete in [redacted]. Pipeline connections to the other two buildings were not complete then.
- (17) Six probable dehydration/mixing buildings of a type slightly different than Annotation 16. Only one, adjacent to one of the pumphouse/storage facilities (Annotation 15), appeared complete and served by pipelines in [redacted].
- (18) Possible rest houses--a total of 15 of these are found near the probable dehydration/mixing buildings as well as buildings further along in the production line.

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- (19) Five possible dry houses.
- (20) Four possible press houses; one appeared under construction in [REDACTED]
- (21) Four probable final blending buildings; the center two are revetted, served by pipeline, and appear complete.
- (22) Two probable final blending buildings, identical to Annotation 21; the location of these within a separately secured area and adjacent to Annotation 23 suggests that their function differs somewhat from the other probable blending buildings.
- (23) Multi-story, revetted process building; a revetted storage building is directly southeast of this building.
- (24) Processing/shop buildings.
- (25) Warehouse area, rail served.
- (26) Solvent area, separately secured, rail served, and consisting of a possible pumping station (southeast corner), solvent storage (northeast corner), multi-story possible distillation building (north side), three process buildings, and a complex storage facility. Four tank cars and two flat cars were observed in [REDACTED] on the rail spur.
- (27) Separately secured warehouses and open materiel storage.

Heat and Power Plant - This section of the plant is rail served and consists of a boilerhouse, generator hall, transformer yard, three cooling towers, coal piles, and associated facilities (Figures 4 and 5).

Test Area - A secured area with facilities for testing shells and probably small rockets is located directly south of the production area. These facilities are described below; the following numbers correspond to the annotations on Figure 7.

- (1) Shell testing facility with firing emplacements at approximately 390 and 740 feet from a [REDACTED] target area. Instrumentation points (indicated by small arrows) are located at 200 and 550 feet from the furthest firing emplacement.
- (2) Shell testing facility, similar to Annotation 1 in configuration and size, with a single firing emplacement.
- (3) Shell testing facility, identical to Annotation 2.
- (4) Probable small rocket test facility consisting of an instrumentation building, testing building, and a blast deflector. This facility is very similar to one at the Hsian Probable Munitions Research and Development Center (Annotation 26, Figure 21).
- (5) Support buildings.

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- (6) Two partially earth-covered, road served storage buildings.
- (7) Small horizontal test cell--the flared end of the cell is directed toward a curved blast deflector located approximately 20 feet behind the cell. This short distance suggests that the cell is used for testing small rockets and/or batches of propellant.

Explosives Storage Area - This secured area is located directly southeast of the production area (Figure 5) and consists of four large road and rail served, revetted explosives storage buildings and a small, road served, revetted explosives storage building.

Changes/Activity - Construction activity and changes at this explosives plant during the period [ ] are shown by Figures 3-9. The earliest available photography of [ ] shows that the heat and power plant and a major portion of the production area were essentially complete, although some construction was taking place. The test area was in a mid-stage of construction and construction of the explosives storage area had not begun at this time. By [ ] a cooling tower had been constructed, the test and explosives storage areas were complete, and a number of probable final blending buildings, processing/shop buildings, and warehouses in the production area had been constructed. During the period [ ] improvement in the internal roads and an increase in the housing and support facilities was noted.

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Changes during the period [ ] are noted below; the numbers correspond to those on Figure 9.

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- (1) Building under construction.
- (2) Probable dehydration/mixing building under construction.
- (3) Areas of construction activity.
- (4) Warehouse constructed.

Several open areas exist within the plant; it is possible that facilities for the nitration of glycerin could be added in order to produce a double base propellant.

This plant probably achieved a limited production level during the period [ ] There has been some increase since then, but a number of process buildings still did not appear to be in use in [ ] A listing of specific activity indicators by mission follows (Annotation numbers refer to Figure 6):

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- a. [ ] - The heat and power plant was in operation as indicated by smoke from the stack.
- b. [ ] - The heat and power plant was in operation as indicated by smoke from the stack and vapor over the cooling towers.
- c. [ ] - Smoke and vapor again indicated that the heat and power plant was in operation. In addition, vehicular traffic was observed within the production area as were rail cars near Annotations 5, 6 and 26.
- d. [ ] - Smoke was observed coming from the heat and power plant stack as well as vapor or fumes from the probable nitric acid absorber section of the nitration facility. Rail cars were also observed near Annotation 26.
- e. [ ] - Heat and power plant in operation.
- f. [ ] Heat and power plant in operation; rail cars observed near Annotations 6 and 26.

HSIAN MUNITIONS PLANT NO. 1 (Figures 10-13)

This plant is located 8 nautical miles east-northeast of the center of Hsian and 1.5 nautical miles east of the east bank of the Pa Shui (river). It covers a total area of approximately 8,150,000 square feet and is road and rail served. There are two major areas at this plant--a production area and an explosives storage area--as well as administrative and housing facilities and a rail yard near the plant (Figure 12).

Production Area - Principal features of this rail served, secured area are a large number of explosives processing and revetted storage buildings, fabrication and metal working facilities, and a boilerhouse. Presumably, munitions hardware production and the processing/loading of explosives can take place here. A more detailed description of these facilities is given below; the following numbers correspond to those on Figure 11.

- (1) Housing area.
- (2) Administration area.
- (3) Motor pool--four trucks and several unidentified vehicles were observed in [ ] while a number of vehicles were present in [ ]
- (4) Two probable warehouses.
- (5) Building under construction.
- (6) Administration area.
- (7) Boilerhouse.
- (8) Three transloading facilities.

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- (9) Three large fabrication buildings and six shops.
- (10) Open materiel storage.
- (11) Possible forge/foundry.
- (12) Explosives processing/loading area containing approximately 33 process buildings, 43 revetted storage buildings, and 12 small storage buildings. The buildings indicated by brackets each have a series of small, cell-like structures along one or more sides, presumably for ventilation.
- (13) Temporary structures and open materiel storage, unsecured.

Explosives Storage Area - This secured and road and rail served area is located one nautical mile southeast of the production area. It consists of one transloading facility and four large and twelve small revetted explosives storage buildings, each individually road served.

Changes/Activity - A comparison of the earliest available coverage with more recent coverage reveals that the plant was in a mid-stage of construction in [REDACTED]. The explosive storage area and most of the process buildings within the production area were complete. However, many of the revetments within the production area as well as a number of the administrative facilities were not complete. By [REDACTED] all but one major building (Annotation 5, Figure 11) had been completed and landscaping had covered over much of the earth scarring apparent during the construction phase. Several additional administrative buildings were also completed during this period. A number of temporary construction buildings outside the northwest corner of the production area had been removed by this time.

Changes during the period [REDACTED] are noted below; the numbers correspond to those on Figure 13.

- (1) Two buildings under construction in the northeast corner of the production area.
- (2) Construction activity in the southeast corner of the production area.
- (3) Possible construction activity.
- (4) Building still incomplete (Annotation 5, Figure 11).

This plant probably began production during the period [REDACTED]. Smoke coming from the boilerhouse stack indicated that it was in operation in [REDACTED]. Vehicle traffic within the plant area was also observed in [REDACTED]. In addition, rail cars were seen in the rail yard in [REDACTED] and near the boilerhouse in [REDACTED].

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HSIAN MUNITIONS PLANT NO. 2 (Figures 14, 15, 18 and 19)

This plant is located approximately 3.5 nautical miles east-south-east of the center of Hsian and one nautical mile west of the Ch'an Ho (river). It is road and rail served and covers an area of approximately 2,000,000 square feet. The plant consists of a secured area in which explosives processing/loading probably takes place and a small support area directly west of the former. A large unidentified industrial installation (Figures 16 and 17) one nautical mile north of the processing/loading area may be associated with it. This possible association is based upon the presence of six small revetted storage buildings within the industrial installation and the fact that it supplies the processing/loading area with steam. In addition, both areas are served by the same rail line and road and were constructed at about the same time.

Explosives Processing/Loading Area - A description of the facilities within this area is given below; the following numbers correspond to the numbers on Figure 15.

- (1) Buried steamline (from the boilerhouse in the unidentified industrial installation) and pumphouse.
- (2) Process building, unrevetted, with several blast walls and probable roof vents; possibly still under construction in [redacted]
- (3) Nine revetted explosives storage buildings, road served; some of these probably serve as rest houses.
- (4) Warehouse/support buildings.
- (5) One semi-buried and buried tank.
- (6) Process building, unrevetted; along the south side of the center section of this building there is a series of small, cell-like structures, presumably for purposes of ventilation. These are similar to those found on process buildings in Hsian Munitions Plant No. 1 (Annotation 12, Figure 11).
- (7) Process building, unrevetted, and still under construction in [redacted]
- (8) Revetted transloading area.
- (9) Process building, revetted on three sides, with several blast walls and small roof vents.
- (10) Process building, revetted on all four sides, with blast walls protruding from the roof suggesting the presence of three cells/possible pellet presses.
- (11) Two revetted, rail served explosives storage buildings.
- (12) Standpipe.
- (13) Administrative/support facilities.

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- (14) Support area 0.5 nautical miles west of the explosives processing/loading area and consisting of six probable barracks and two under construction in [REDACTED]

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Changes/Activity - Comparison of photography of [REDACTED] over the Munitions Plant No. 2 with that of [REDACTED] (Figures 14 and 15) shows that the plant was in an early stage of construction in 1959 and that much of the plant was complete by 1963. In [REDACTED] construction of the facilities indicated by Annotations 3, 8, and 12 (these and succeeding numbers refer to Figure 15) had not begun and Annotations 9, 11, 13 and 14 were in an early stage of construction. Annotations 2, 6, and 7 were in a mid stage of construction. By [REDACTED] these facilities were complete except for Annotations 2, 7, and 14 as previously noted. In addition, the security wall and most of the internal road network had been completed. A number of temporary construction buildings east of Annotation 11 had been removed. By [REDACTED] the remaining work was completed. From [REDACTED] no apparent major changes were observed.

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There is no visual evidence of activity at Munitions Plant No. 2. However, the completion of the facilities by [REDACTED] and possibly by [REDACTED] as well as the use of almost all of the available space within the secured area indicates some capability for production.

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As stated previously, construction was also underway at the [redacted] Industrial Installation at about the same time. This area was in a slightly more advanced construction stage than the Munitions Plant No. 2. Between [redacted] the two fabrication buildings Annotation 1, Figure 17, and the three revetted storage buildings, Annotation 3, Figure 17, were constructed. Several changes were also made in the layout of the storage/temporary construction buildings, Annotation 2, Figure 17, as well as the construction of a number of buildings and other facilities in the area of Annotation 10, Figure 17, during this period.

#### HSIAN PROBABLE MUNITIONS RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT CENTER (Figures 20-23)

This center is located approximately 4.5 nautical miles southwest of the center of Hsian. It is road served, secured, and covers an area of approximately 4,800,000 square feet. The features of this installation which suggest that research and development work rather than explosives production take place are: (1) a large number of administrative, possible laboratory and shop buildings with respect to the number and size/capability of the explosives processing buildings, (2) the limited capacity of the explosives storage buildings and (3) the presence of testing facilities within the center.

A discussion of the facilities follows; the numbers below correspond to those on Figure 21.

- (1) Administration/support area.
- (2) Warehousing/maintenance shops area with some open materiel storage; this area is partially secured, separate from the main area, and has a separate access road.
- (3) Possible laboratory.
- (4) I-shaped administration building.
- (5) U-shaped administration/possible laboratory building-- the center section is separated from the two wings by possible fire or blast walls.
- (6) Possible machine shops.
- (7) Building with adjoining free standing stack and possible tank.
- (8) Boilerhouse with adjacent coal pile.
- (9) Probable warehousing and maintenance shops with some open materiel storage.
- (10) Several warehouse/shop buildings and a possible laboratory building.
- (11) Explosives processing building with cell-like structures along one side.

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CIA IMAGERY ANALYSIS DIVISION

- (12) Explosives processing building similar to 11.
- (13) Three possible shop buildings and two small storage buildings.
- (14) Revetted storage/process building, possibly associated with 17.
- (15) Shop building with six roof ventilators.
- (16) Revetted storage/process building, possibly associated with 18.
- (17) Probable explosives processing line consisting of five buildings--the center three buildings have cell-like structures, presumably for ventilation.
- (18) Probable explosives processing line consisting of five buildings--one of which is revetted.
- (19) Revetted process building with six small storage buildings along its south and west sides.
- (20) L-shaped shop building with high bay section.
- (21) Eleven processing/shop buildings--four of these have raised sections.
- (22) Probable pellet pressing shop with four cells indicated by blast walls protruding through the roof.
- (23) Area containing eight and possibly ten revetted storage buildings plus several unrevetted storage buildings.
- (24) Probable ballistic test range and associated building. The range is approximately 350 feet long and has four small instrumentation buildings spaced at 90 foot intervals.
- (25) Waste dump and possible burn area.
- (26) Probable small rocket test facility consisting of an instrumentation building, a testing building, and a wing shaped blast deflector. As noted previously, this closely resembles a facility at the Hu-Hsien Explosives Plant (Annotation 4, Figure 7).
- (27) Water tower and possible buried tank.
- (28) Probable barracks area under construction in [ ] and possibly associated with the center.

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Changes/Activity - This installation was in a late stage of construction in [ ]. Most of the explosives processing, testing, and storage facilities were complete or near completion (Figure 20). During the period [ ], construction of the facilities described under Annotations 2, 3, and 28 (Figure 21) took place. The southern half of Annotation 4, most of the buildings under Annotation 9, and the possible laboratory building described under Annotation 10 were also constructed during this period. In addition, a revetment was constructed around the explosives processing building, Annotation 14, and several minor changes were made along the west side of the center. From [ ] a number of other changes were made; these are [ ]

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shown on Figure 23 and described below. The following numbers correspond to those on Figure 23.

- (1) Two warehouse/shop buildings constructed by [REDACTED] 25X1
- (2) Three revetted storage buildings, road served; these were constructed between [REDACTED] 25X1
- (3) Additional roads (indicated by broken lines) serving new areas within the center as well as the revetted storage buildings, Annotation 23, Figure 21, have been constructed since [REDACTED] 25X1
- (4) A number of buildings have been under construction since [REDACTED] 25X1
- (5) A revetted storage building, a long possible process building, and several small buildings were constructed here between [REDACTED] Earth scarring to the southeast of these buildings suggests that further construction is taking place. 25X1
- (6) Building under construction since [REDACTED] 25X1
- (7) Two buildings constructed since [REDACTED] 25X1
- (8) Two buildings constructed between [REDACTED] 25X1
- (9) Additional probable barracks constructed since [REDACTED] 25X1

There is no visual evidence of activity at this center other than the continuing construction of additional facilities.

#### HSIAN AMMUNITION STORAGE NORTH (Figures 24 and 25)

This area is located 7 nautical miles north-northeast of Hsian and 1 nautical mile northeast of the Hsian Aircraft Engine Plant. It is secured, covers an area of approximately 3,200,000 square feet and is road served. A rail line leading to and rail spurs within the secured area are present; however, they appear covered with foliage and unused. The area includes twenty revetted storage buildings of varying sizes, individually road served. Eighteen of these buildings are served by rail spurs, possibly unused as noted above. No significant changes in this area have been noted using the available coverage.

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REFERENCES

25X1



MAPS OR CHARTS

1. General Locator Map, China - 26906 (UNCLASSIFIED)
2. US Air Target Charts, Series 200, Sheet 0384-15A, 2nd Edition  
January 1960, (SECRET) and Sheet 0385-11A, 1st Edition  
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DOCUMENTS

1. CIA/PID/IB Memo 331/63, Sian Arsenals, November 1963  
(SECRET)

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2. CIA/PID/IB Memo 63/65, Chicom Arsenal Study - Hsian, February 1965  
(TOP SECRET [REDACTED])
3. CIA/PIR - 65067, Arsenals/Ammunition Plants, Tai-Yuan, December 1965  
(TOP SECRET [REDACTED])

# REQUIREMENT

CIA. C-RR5-82,802

# CIA/IAD PROJECT

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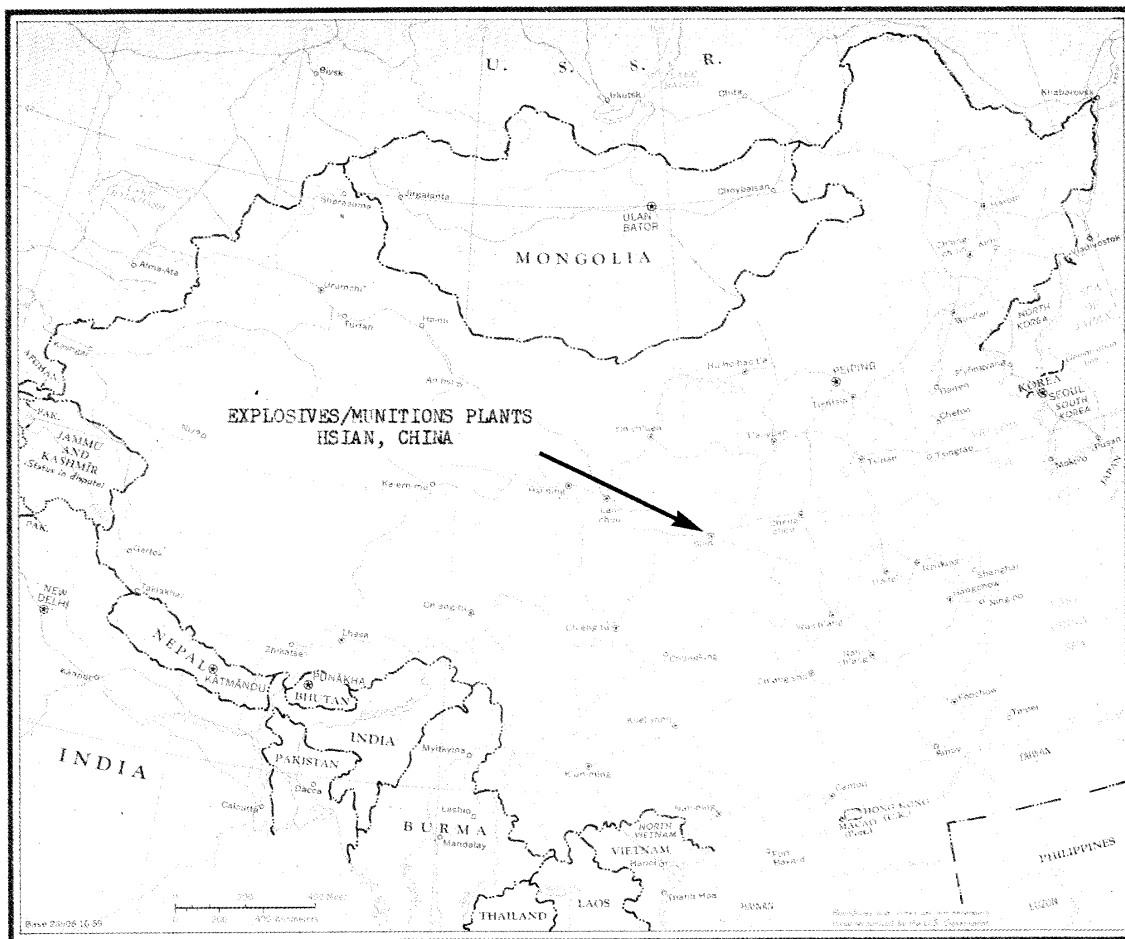
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FIGURE 1

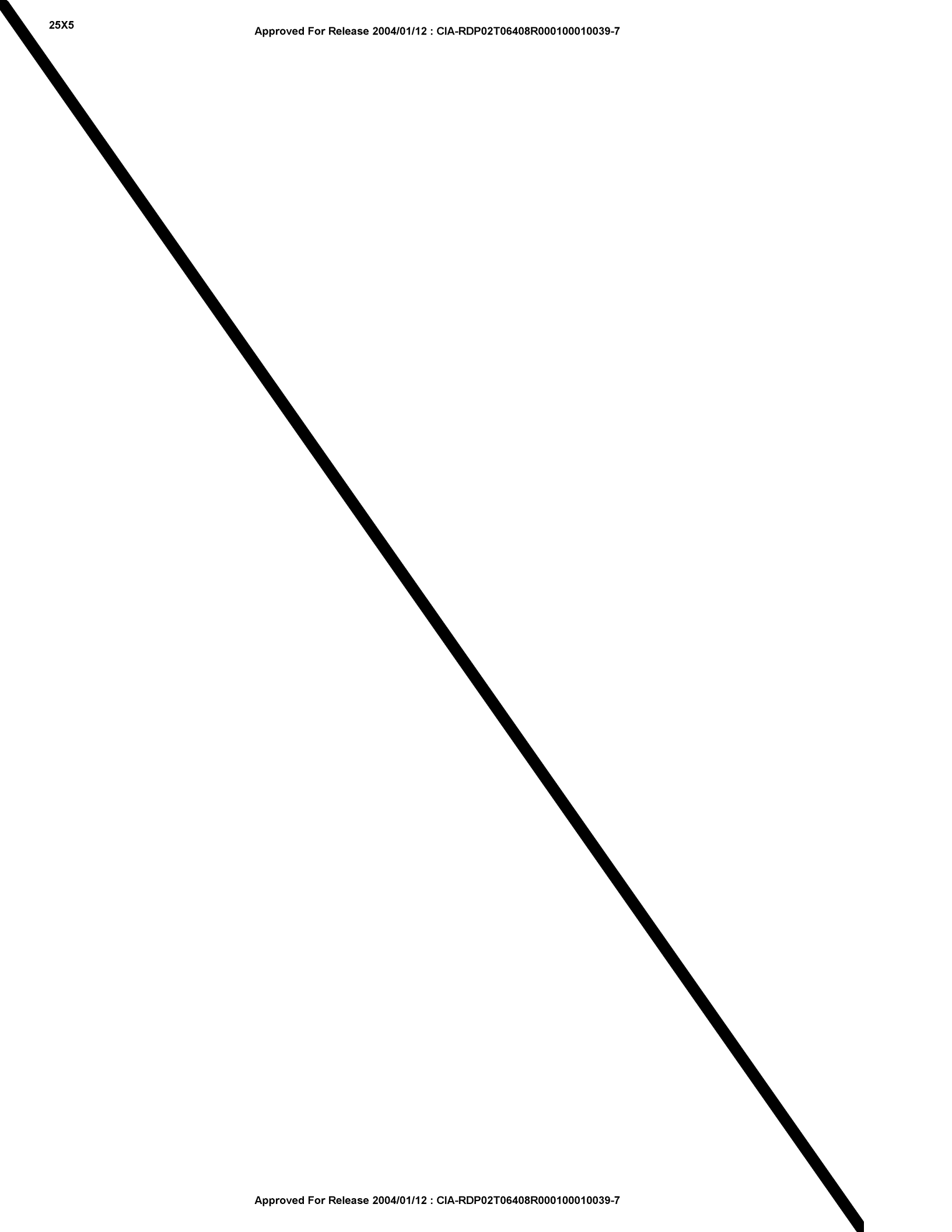
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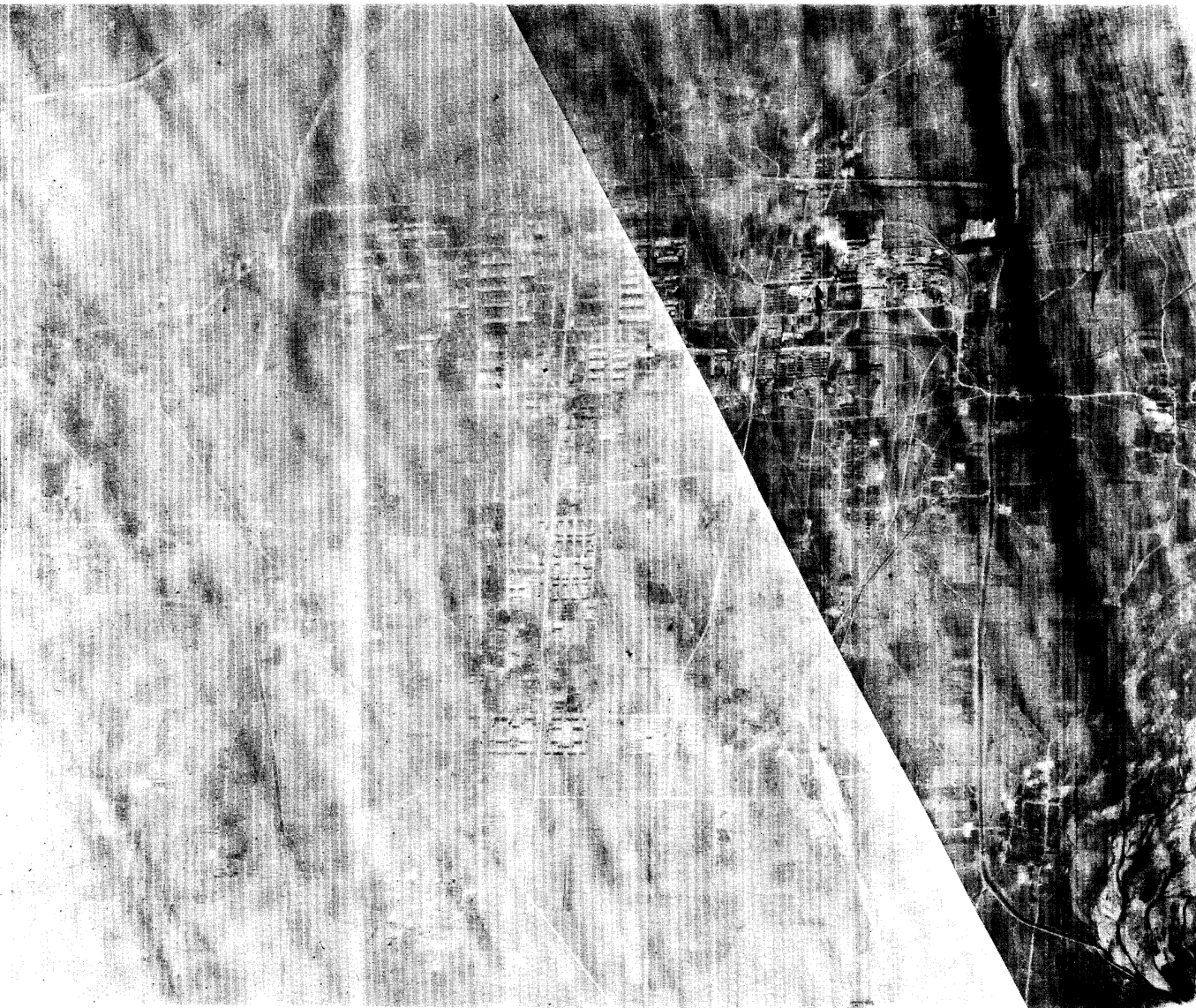


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FIGURE 3

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HU-ASIEN EXPLOSIVES PLANT  
Hsian, China  
34 02N - 108 37E

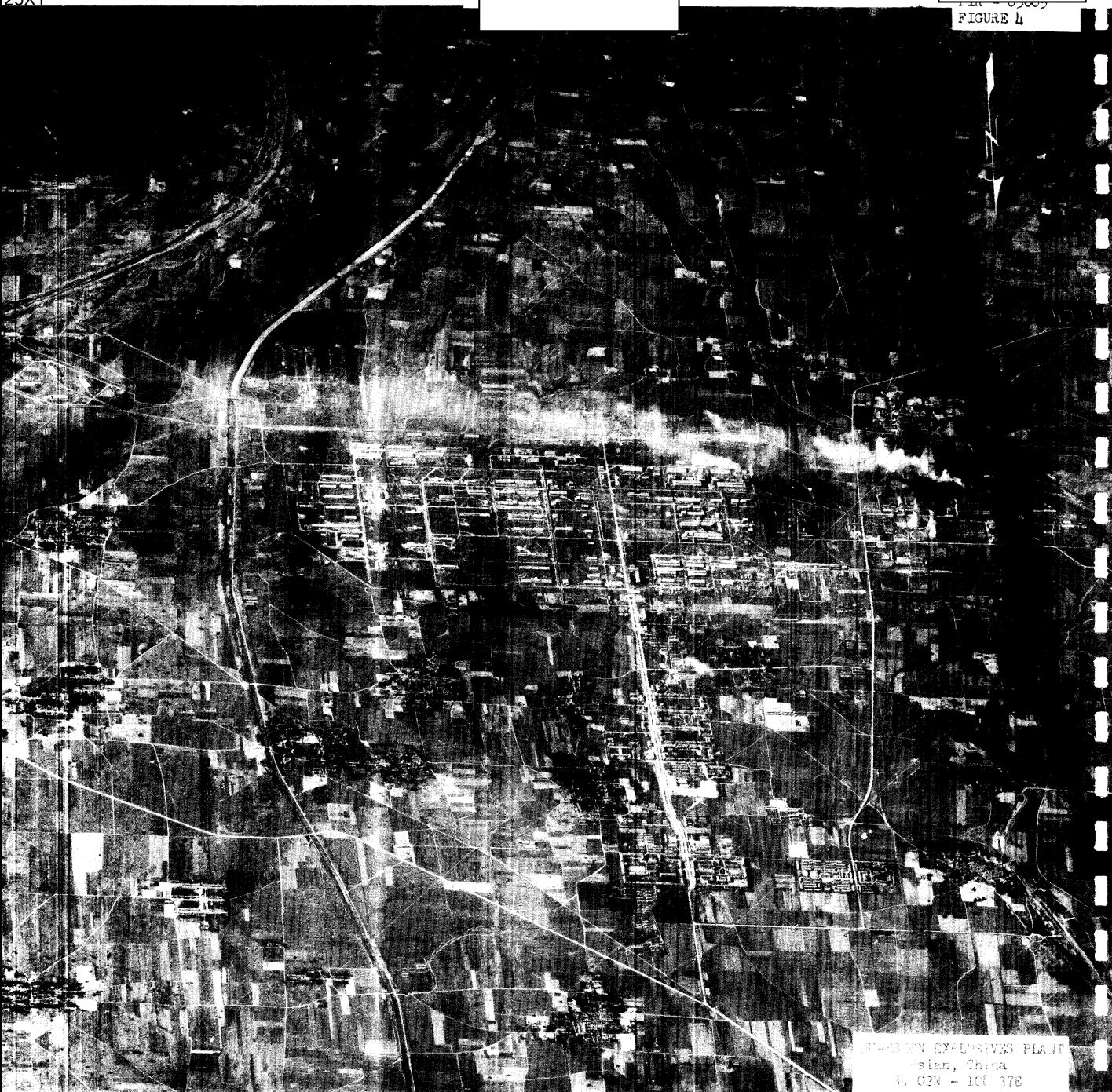
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FIGURE 4



JIUQUAN EXPLOSIVES PLANT  
Jiuquan, China  
W. 02N - 10E 37E

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FIGURE 5

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HU-HSIEN EXPLOSIVES PLANT  
Hsian, China  
30 02N - 106 37E

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[REDACTED]

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FIGURE 6

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HU-HSIEN EXPLOSIVES PLANT  
Hsian, China  
34 02N - 108 37E

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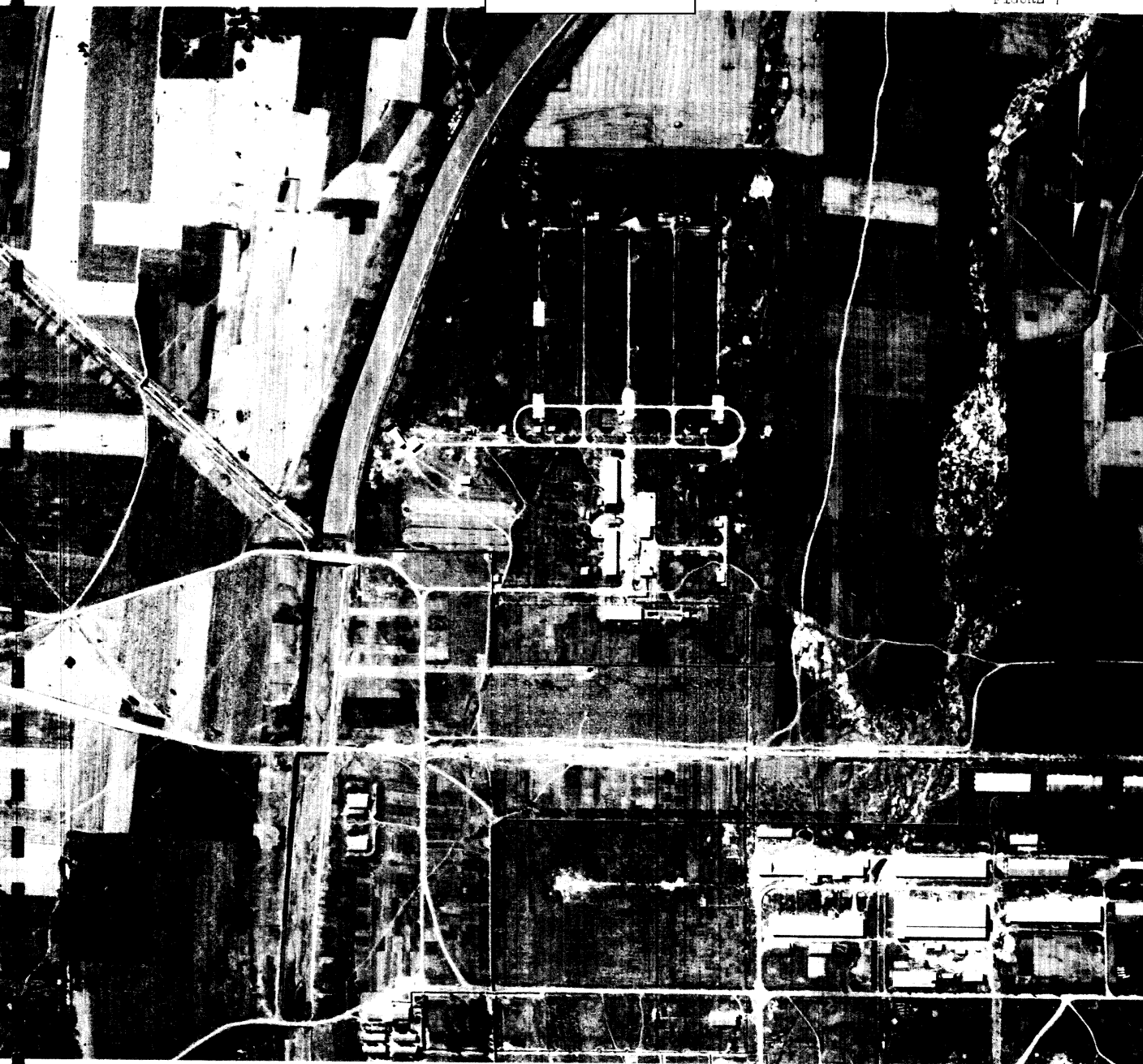
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FIGURE 7

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HU-HSIEN EXPLOSIVES PLANT  
Hsian, China  
34 02N - 108 37E

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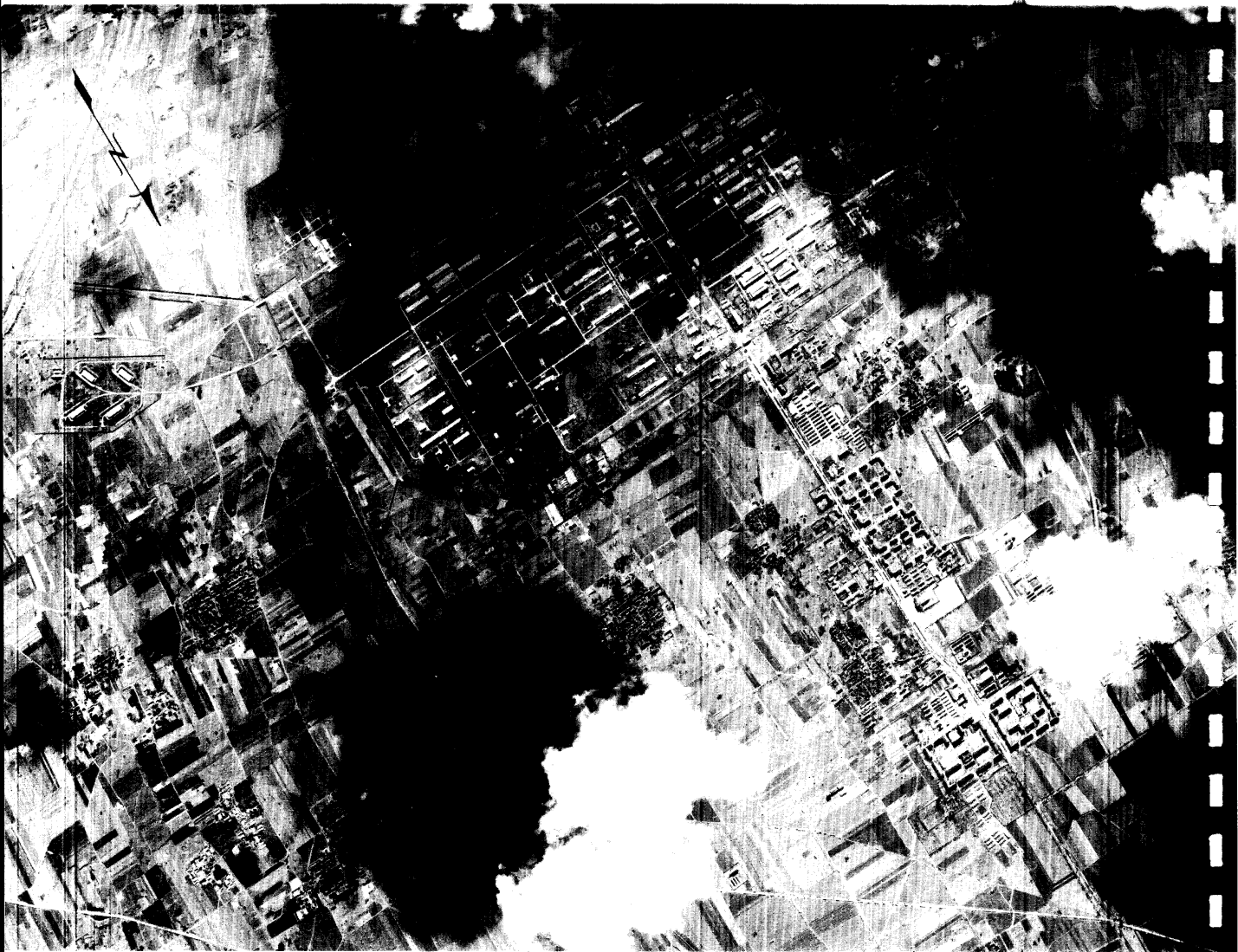
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FIGURE 8

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HU-HSIEN EXPLOSIVES PLANT  
Hsian, China  
34 02N - 108 37E

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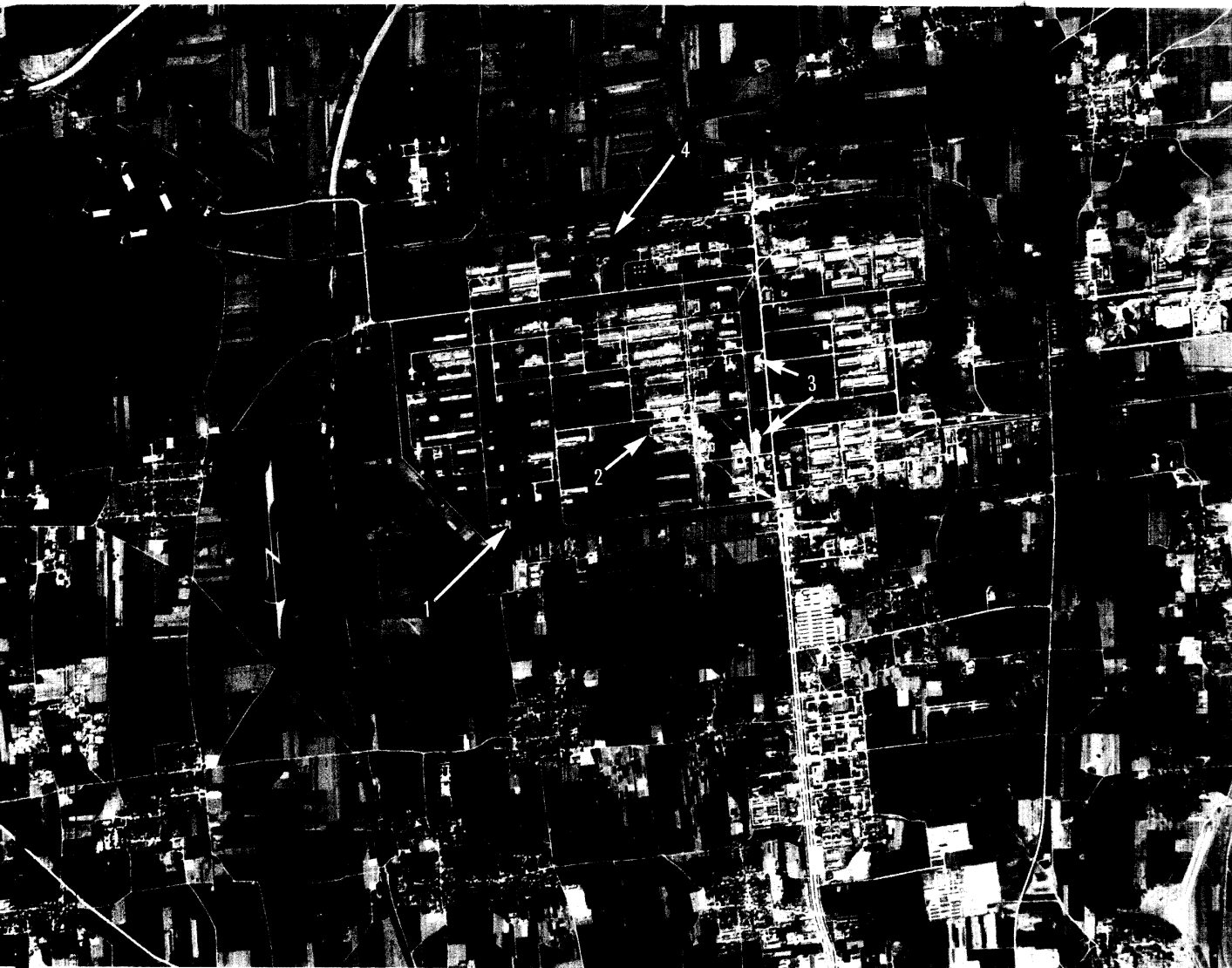
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FIGURE 9

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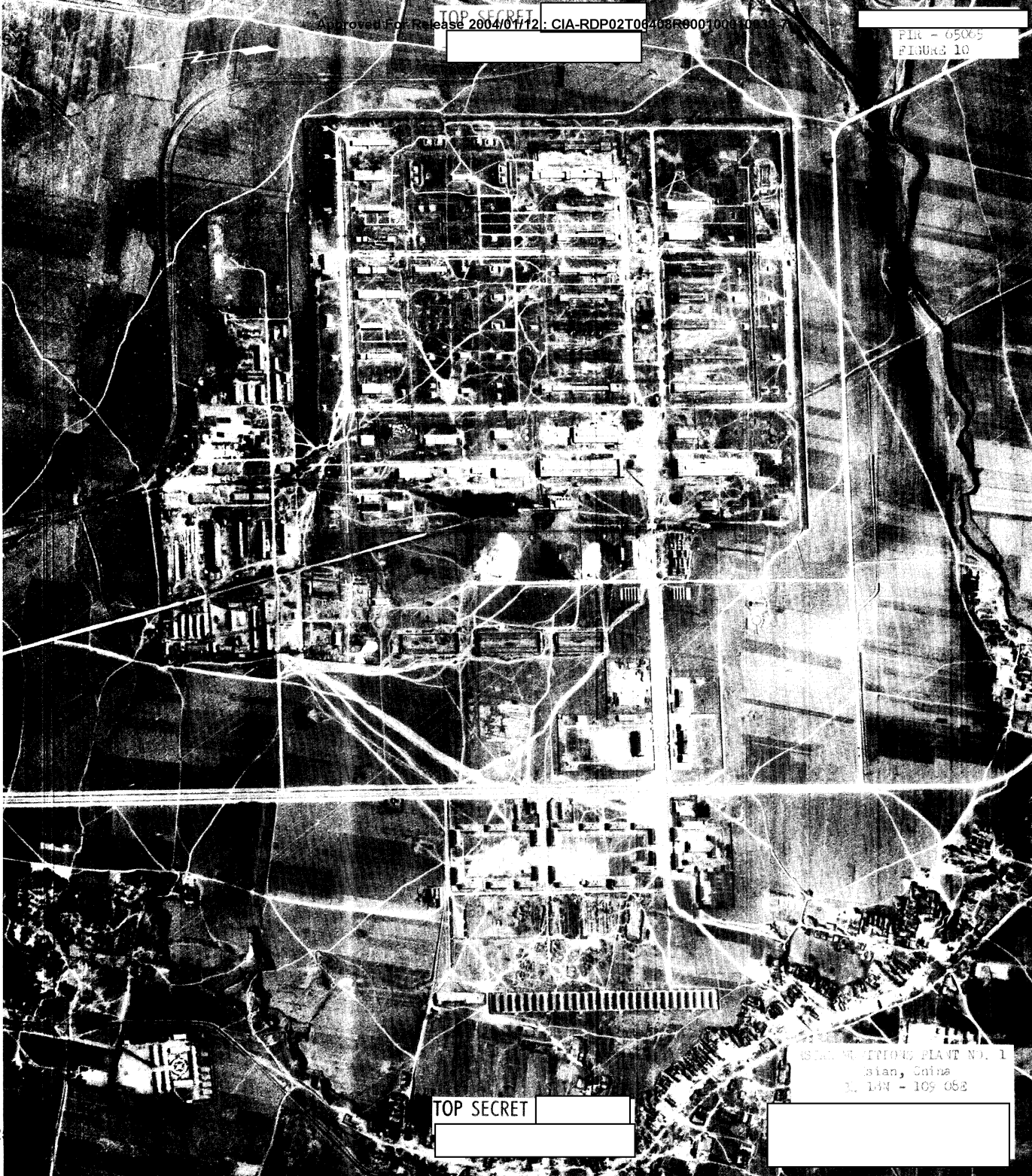
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HU-HSIEN EXPLOSIVES PLANT  
Hsian, China  
34 02N - 106 37E

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PLR - 05005  
FIGURE 10



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CHINA PETROCHEMICAL PLANT NO. 1  
Sian, China  
2. 14N - 109 08E

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FIGURE 11



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Hsian Munitions Plant No. 1  
Hsien, China  
34 16N - 109 08E

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FIGURE 12

Explosives Storage Area

Production Area

Administrative and Housing Facilities

Rail Yard

HSIAN MUNITIONS PLANT NO. 1  
Hsian, China  
34 18W - 109 08E

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25X1  
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25X1



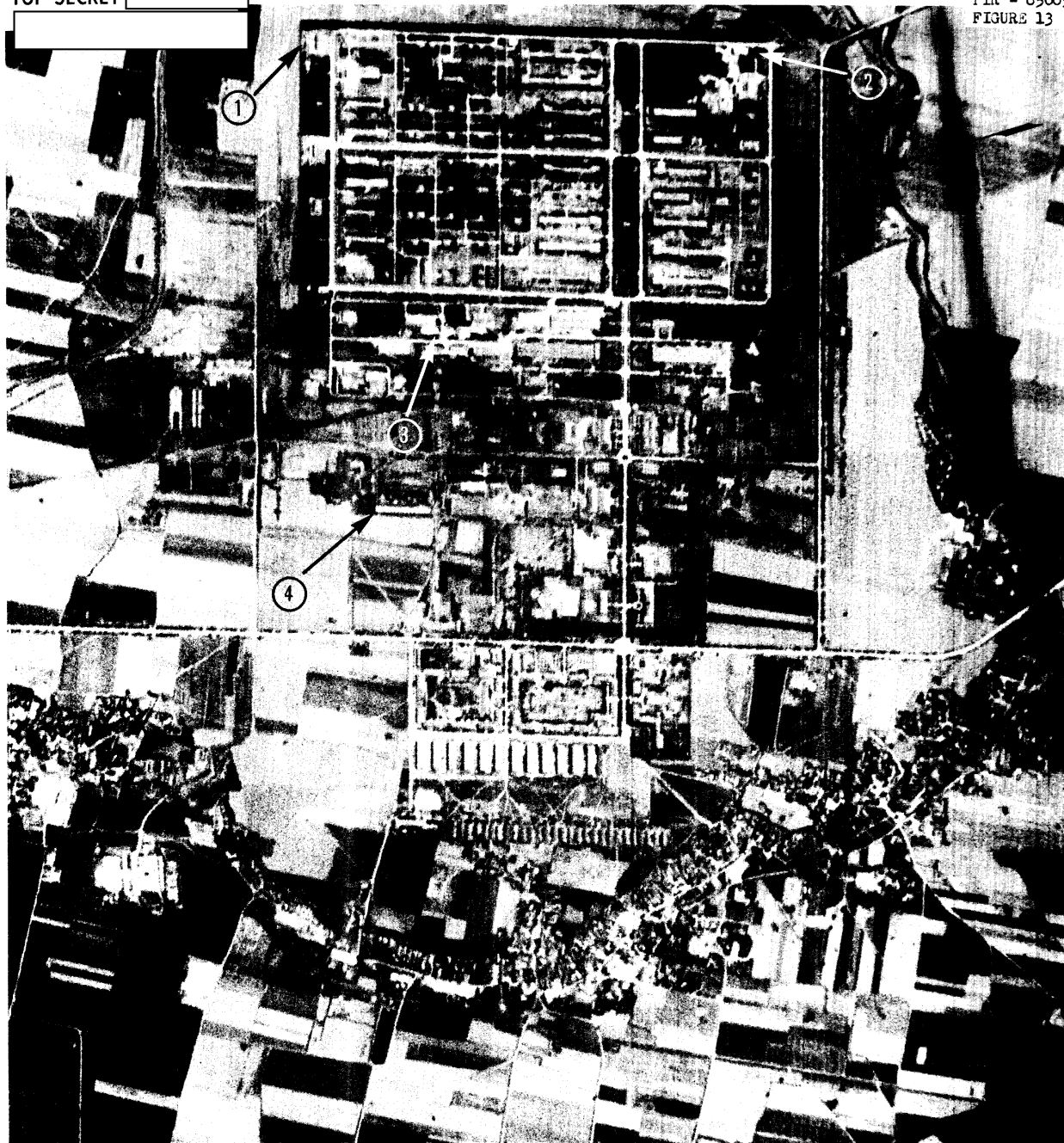
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25X1

TOP SECRET

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FIGURE 13



HSIAN MUNITIONS PLANT NO. 1  
Hsian, China  
34 18N - 109 08E

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25X1

25X1

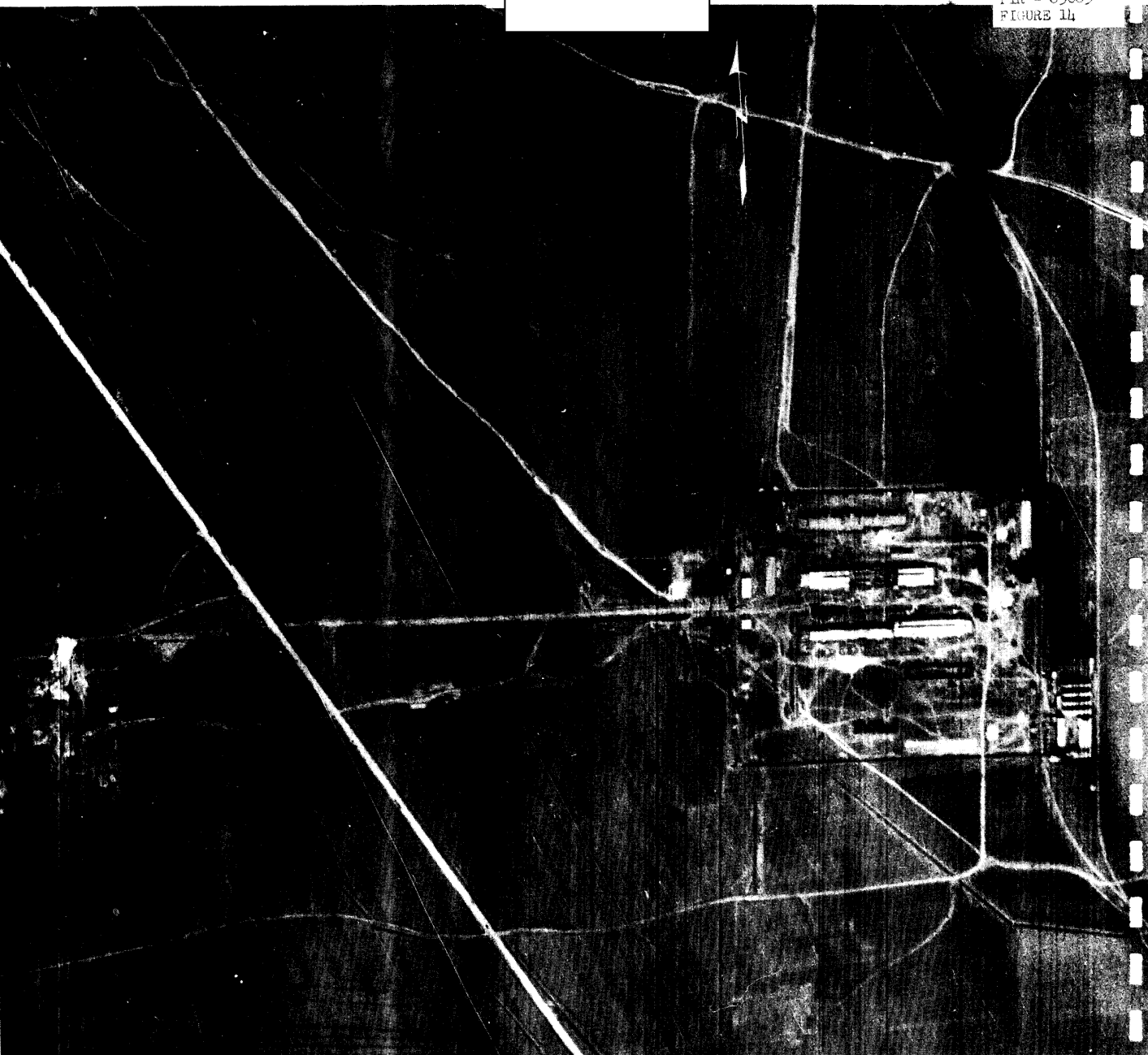
25X1

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TOP SECRET

PLR - 65065  
FIGURE 14

25X1  
25X1



CHINESE MUNITIONS PLANT NO. 2  
Hsian, China  
34 14N - 109 02E

TOP SECRET

25X1  
25X1

25X1

TOP SECRET

PLR - 65005  
FIGURE 15

25X1



Hsian Munitions Plant No. 2  
Hsian, China  
34 14N - 109 02E

TOP SECRET

25X1

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PIR - 65065  
FIGURE 16

25X1



INDIAN MUNITIONS PLANT NO. 2  
Asian, China  
34 14N - 109 02E

TOP SECRET

25X1

TOP SECRET [REDACTED]

PLR - 65065  
FIGURE 19

25X1  
25X1



Hsian Kung-tung Plant No. 2  
Hsian, China  
34 11N - 109 02E

25X1

TOP SECRET [REDACTED]



TOP SECRET

PIR - 65065  
FIGURE 21

25X1



HSIAV PROBABLE MUNITIONS RESEARCH  
AND DEVELOPMENT CENTER  
Hsian, China  
34 124 - 108 558

TOP SECRET

25X1

TOP SECRET

PIR - 65065  
FIGURE 22

25X1

25X1



HSIAN PROBABLE MUNITIONS RESEARCH  
AND DEVELOPMENT CENTER  
Hsian, China  
34 12N - 108 55E

TOP SECRET

25X1

25X1



25X1

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PIR - 65065  
FIGURE 23

25X1



CHINESE PROBABLE MUNITIONS RESEARCH  
AND DEVELOPMENT CENTER  
Hsian, China  
34 12N - 108 55E

TOP SECRET

25X1

FIG - 65065  
FIGURE 2h

25X1  
25X1



HSIAN AMMUNITION STORAGE NORTH  
Hsian, China  
34 24N - 109 00E

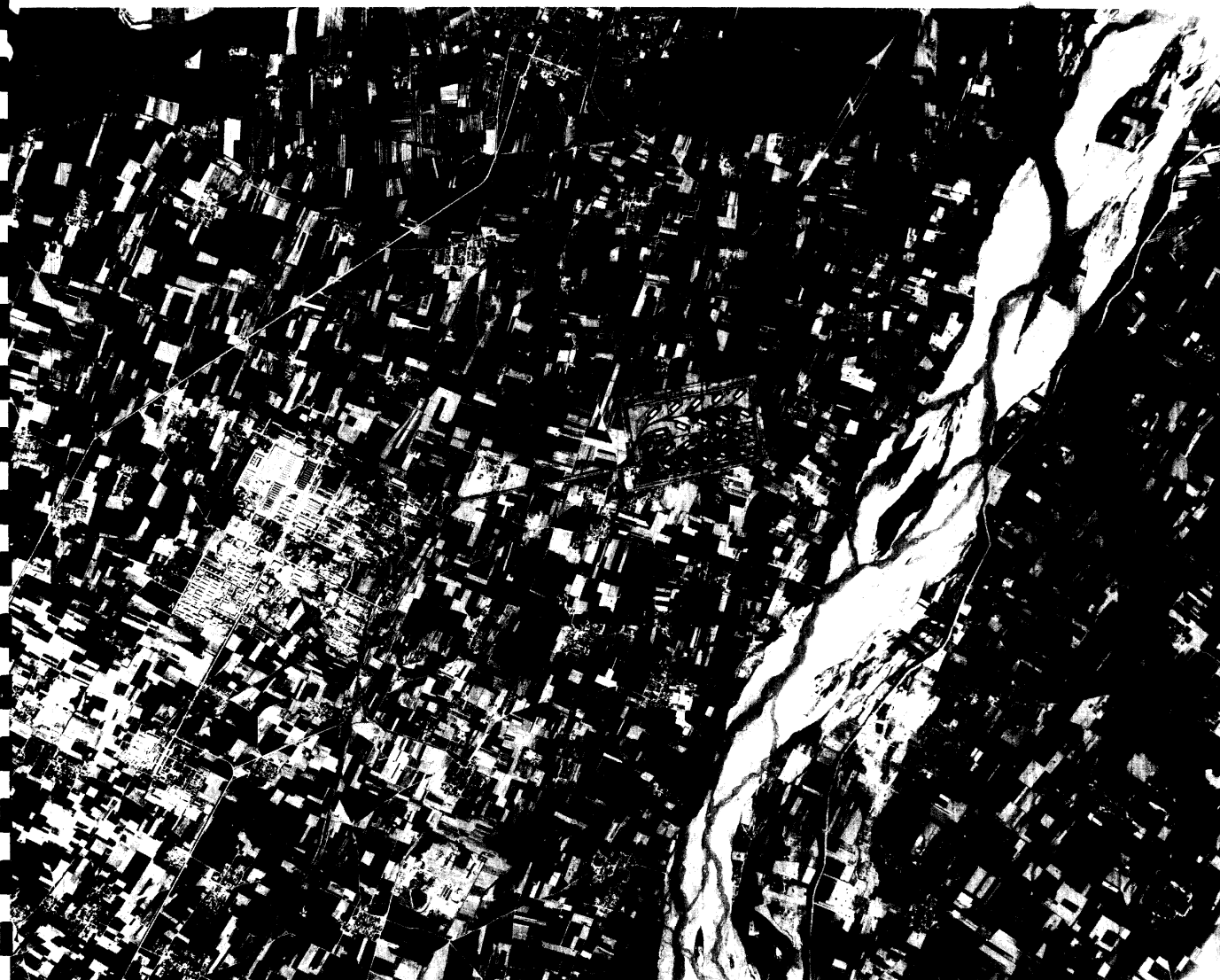
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25X1  
25X1

25X1

TOP SECRET

PIR - 65065  
FIGURE 25



HSIAN AMMUNITION STORAGE NORTH  
Hsian, China  
34 24N - 109 00E

TOP SECRET

25X1

